



First Press

Weekly Newsletter

First Presbyterian Church

January 19, 2025

Our Pastor

Rev. Dr. Helen Hutchison

Email: helen@firstpreslawrence.org

Helen will be in the office Monday through Thursday.

Our Mission

We are a community of Christ's disciples who celebrate God's inclusive love by ministering to one another and the world.

Church Office Hours

9 am to 3 pm Monday through Friday.

Welcome!

We encourage everyone to come as you are, be who you are, and create a community with us! Whether you are joining us virtually or in-person; as a long-time member or a first-time guest, we are happy to have you with us anytime! If you are new to First Presbyterian Church, please let us know you are here by signing the **Friendship Pad**. If you are worshipping with us online either live or recorded please **email us at firstpreslawrence@gmail.com** letting us know you joined us in worship. We look forward to getting to know you. If you are interested in membership at FPC please talk with Pastor Helen.

Prayers

Cares, Concerns, and Celebrations

- **First 5 Years teacher, Lisa Marie Benke**, asks for prayers for her husband, Russell, who was just diagnosed with stage 4 lung cancer.
- **Tanja Rounds** died January 10. Services were held Saturday at FPC.
- **Kerry McLay, daughter of Alois McLay**, died December 29th. Services will be held later.
- **FPC member Jan Erland** died on December 29th. Services are pending.
- **Michael Devlin** is hospitalized at LMH and is now in acute care after a set-back recently.
- **Bruce Humphreys, step-father of Robert Mugridge**, asks for our prayers.
- **Kelly Grube** is receiving chemo and being evaluated by Mayo Clinic.
- **Susan and Pat** - dealing with health concerns.

- **Ruthanne Stucky, mother of Alisa Stucky**, asks for our prayers of healing and strength as she continues her fight against cancer.
- **Jenny Skridulis Vellon, a former member of FPC**, had breast cancer surgery recently. She will rest for a few weeks before starting radiation. Prayers welcome!
- **Ray Borden, Linda Bridges' dad**, is in rehab to gain strength. Grateful for all your prayers and support!
- **Tim Dutcher, son of Lois and David Dutcher**, had a kidney transplant. Tim is home and doing well.
- **Nancy Brink, a friend of Lois and Dave Dutcher**, asks for prayers as she copes with brain and lung cancer diagnosis.
- **Allison Clunn-McPlin and family**, friends of Dave and Lois Dutcher. Allison was diagnosed with an aggressive form of ALS.
- **George Crump** is asking for prayers in support of his health and well-being.
- **Linda Wilson, Carol Fleeger's sister-in-law**, is healing following cancer surgery.
- **Kristi McAlister, FPC member and daughter of Pat McAlister**, who is facing some serious health challenges.
- **Prayers for those** facing surgery or treatments, living with addiction or mental health issues, and for the caregivers supporting them.
- **Prayer for our pastor and church leaders**, for those leading our community, our state, and our nation.

Deacon Family Groups - 2024

A-Ca	Charles Tuttle	N-Q	Peggy Southard
Ce-Do	Janet Adams	Mc-Mz	Becky May
Dr-F	Diana Schoneweis	R-Si	Linda Longino
G-Ha	Larry Schlosser	Sl-T	Russ Heikes
He-Ko	Mary Warren	U-Z	Allen Macfarlane
Kr-Ma	Lois Dutcher		

Birthdays in the Congregation

January 21	January 24
Guy Dresser	Ken Blair
January 22	John Bradley
Helen Hutchison	January 26
January 23	LaVonne Nauman
Thomas Hill	Kerstin Roberts

Sunday Helpers

Ushers: Martha Rose, Vic and Dianne Sisk, Heather Soper

Greeters: The Oertel Family

Securing the Offering: Mark Shiflett

Friendship Pad Collector: Petra Peterson

Bag Brigade Volunteer:

Calendar

January 19

9:15 am Sunday School for Children

9:15 am Earth Care Forum

10:30 am Worship

11:30 am Youth Winter Retreat

January 20 – Church Office Closed for MLK Day

2:00 pm Pastor Helen's Class

6:00 pm Westminster Ringers Rehearsal

January 21

9:00 am First 5 Years Classes

1:00 pm Small World Classes

2:00 pm

Parkinson Support Group

6:30 pm

Deacon Meeting

January 22

9:00 am

First 5 Years Classes

7:00 pm

Boy Scout Troop 59 Meeting

7:00 pm

Chancel Choir Rehearsal

January 23

9:00 am

First 5 Years Classes

1:00 pm

Small World Classes

January 24

9:00 am

First 5 Years Classes

10:00 am

Men's Group

7:00 pm

Pinewood Derby Set up

January 25

10:00 am

Cub Scout Pinewood Derby

January 26

9:15 am

Earth Care Forum

9:15 am

Sunday School for Children

10:30 am

Worship:

11:30 am

Meals for 7 or 8 Potluck

Children and Youth – classes resume January 12th

• Sunday School Classes for Children and Youth

- Pre-K and Kindergarten – Room 9 – Joan Golden and Nancy Hodges
- 1st and 2nd Grades – Room 12 – Anne Emert and Nikki Barcomb
- 3rd – 5th Grades – Room 14 - Chris Heider and Linda Longino
- Youth attending the Earth Care Forum

Youth Activities

Friends, we have some wonderful plans for 6-12 grades. Please add to your calendars and invite your friends to join us.

- **January**
 - MISSION, SERVICE, FUN and FOOD: Winter Youth Retreat – January 19th – 11:30am to 6 pm
- **February**
 - MISSION: The youth group will lead the congregation in serving a meal at LINK February 1st.
 - MISSION: The Youth will lead in collections of canned food for the Souper Bowl of Caring Feb. 9th.
 - FUN, FOOD, GAMES: The FPC Youth present Family Game Night and potluck, February 23rd.

January 19

YOUTH WINTER RETREAT

11:30 AM-6:00 PM

what will we do?

- ◆ slime time!
- ◆ baking for LINK
- ◆ arts & crafts (bracelet making)
- ◆ games
- ◆ time with Pastor Helen

lunch and dinner will be provided, too!

when will we do it?

we will join together after church on Sunday, January 19 in fellowship hall!

how do we RSVP?

make sure to bring a friend and RSVP to Kelly at (785) 979-2713 or kellygal78@hotmail.com

First Presbyterian Church
2415 Clinton Parkway, Lawrence, KS

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Sun, Feb 23 Game Night & Potluck

Presented by FPC Youth

**4:00-6:30 PM
Dinner served at 5:00**

Bring a dish and a game to share!

• Soup potluck sign-up info coming soon

- March
 - FUN, FAMILY: Bowling with FPC Youth – Everyone is invited to Royal Crest Lanes on Sunday, March 23rd at 3:00 pm. RSVP to Kelly at 785-979-2713

Adult Sunday School Classes

- **The Earth Care Forum** - Today, January 19 – Jennifer Delisle, Ph.D. on “Mapping our Natural Heritage: A Geographer's Perspective on the Rare Plants, Animals, and Ecosystems of Kansas”
On January 26, Kristin Baum will present, “Opportunities and Challenges for Monarch Conservation”.
- **Beginning Feb. 9, “Conversations about LGBTQ+”** led by Paul Laird. Class will meet in the Fireside Room at 9:15 am.
- **Adult Offerings during the week**
 - **The Men’s Group** meets on Friday morning at 10:00 am in the Library. Contact Charles Tuttle for more information at cftuttle@gmail.com.
 - **Pastor Helen’s Monday Class** – We will continue on Monday, January 20th, and look at the video, “God Wrestling”. The class meets at 2:00 pm in the Fireside Room.

Dinners for 7 or 8 are re-grouping! New date for the potluck! This is your opportunity to sign up for the 2025 Groups. Choices include dinners in homes, lunch at church, lunch at restaurants, and dinner in restaurants. Sign up for the group or groups you are interested in joining on the sheets in the Narthex. There will be a potluck dinner after worship on January 26th in Fellowship Hall. Groups will gather to decide on at least the first meeting. If you are not able to attend the potluck, be sure to get your name on a list and we will include you in the group of your choice. Also, you can contact Jan Roth at jroth@ku.edu or the church office 785-843-4171 by January 19th.



LINK – We are getting ready to serve at LINK again this February 1st. Sign ups are open and on the table in the Narthex. We need servers and food items. We are hosting a Taco Bar for lunch. We will need: soft taco / street taco tortillas, black beans, shredded lettuce, mild salsa, shredded cheese, milk, tortilla chips, fruit, sour cream, and dessert. Pick one or many, but sign up today in the Narthex. This is an opportunity for everyone who wants to have a hands-on experience and for those who prefer to provide items for service. Help as you can and the hungry are fed!

How can you participate in the life of the church? Here are some ideas:

- Sign up to be the Liturgist on a Sunday morning. Ability to read slowly and clearly.
- Serve on a Committee or Task Force
- Memorial Services
 - Help serve, set-up, clean-up
 - Make cookies or brownies
 - Usher
- Are you an “inactive” Elder or Deacon? Sign up to serve Communion
- Serve as an usher or greeter on Sunday mornings – need help at all doors!
- Work with the A/V team. We are hoping to expand this team – no experience necessary – they will teach you!
- We are looking for folks to provide a couple dozen cookies on Sunday morning – sign up today in the Narthex!

Gratitude for the Congregation – I deeply appreciate the prayers, cards, blue cards, and kindness we have received during the highs (Thomas’ graduation) and lows of the past two and a half years. FPC is a remarkable group of people who walk the Way. Nora Wallace

Update on Jenny Skridulis Velon - So far, Jenny has persevered through 16 weekly or bi-weekly chemo events, which ended in September. A rest/recover pause followed. Her mastectomy took place on November 21st. Jenny managed the post-op fatigue, aches, discomfort, etc. quite well. She is now prepping for the next treatment step, which is five weeks of daily radiation therapy. The radiation treatment begins next week (Monday, January 20th). Through it all, Jenny has been admirably stoic and resilient. And, to this point, indications are that the treatment program is “working”. But it’s not done yet, and we have sadly learned by experience that unpleasant surprises can still occur. Which means, continuing support from the “powerful prayers” would be most welcome. Please convey our thanks for the concern/support from FPC folk. Much appreciated. Best wishes for the New Year to our kind and caring friends at FPC. Jim Skridulis

A Message of Thanks from Family Promise - Thank you FPC!! We at FPC had our first host week of 2025 this last week. There was one family in Hope House, and we had good meals and fun with the kids on Friday and Saturday evenings. Thank you to Julie Simon and Linda Watts who joined me as hosts and to those who provided monetary donations for the food.

I also wanted to share that after adding up the receipts from 2024, we at FPC gave Family Promise \$2095 in donations and gift cards. That includes all the registration money for the 5K Home Run in May and the gift card basket for the Silent Auction in September. It does not include all of the breakfast items and fruit and food provided for our four host weeks.

I am so grateful for everyone's very generous and loving hearts to help provide for Family Promise families. You all are amazing!! God is good!! Lois Dutcher, coordinator

Southern California Wildfires: PDA Response Southern California is facing multiple uncontrolled fires, exacerbated by strong winds and dry conditions. Tens of thousands of residents have been forced to evacuate and more than 57,000 homes are threatened.

PDA is in communication with the affected presbyteries to offer resources in the aftermath of the fires. So far, we are aware of one Presbyterian church destroyed (Pacific Palisades Presbyterian Church) and several more are threatened. We will know more once the fires are contained, and evacuation orders have been lifted. We pray for all lives affected, for swift containment and the safety of first responders.

Give through your congregation and specify PDA Southern California Wildfire.



Earth Care Forum Series - 2025

Sundays, January 5 – February 2, 9:15 - 10:15 am

Recordings can be found here: <https://www.youtube.com/@firstpreslawrence2258/playlists>

First Presbyterian Church, 2415 Clinton Parkway
(Fellowship Hall)



January 19: Mapping our Natural Heritage: A Geographer's Perspective on the Rare Plants, Animals, and Ecosystems of Kansas

Presenter: Jennifer Delisle, Ph.D., Associate Researcher, Kansas Biological Survey & Center for Ecological Research

Description: Stewardship of our natural world begins with knowing what is here and precisely where it is found. The Kansas Natural Heritage Inventory has been compiling information about the status and location of the state's most threatened species and ecosystems for nearly 40 years. I'll illustrate some of the state's lesser-known rare species and show how maps of biodiversity data are being used for conservation work at the local, state, and national levels.

January 26: Opportunities and Challenges for Monarch Conservation

Presenter: Kristen Baum, Director of Monarch Watch: Kristen is Senior Scientist with the Kansas Biological Survey and Professor in the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at the University of Kansas. Baum has worked with pollinators for more than thirty years. She has served on numerous state, regional, national, and international working groups to support monarch and pollinator conservation efforts.

Description: Monarch butterflies have exhibited substantial population declines in recent years. The US Fish and Wildlife Service has proposed listing the monarch as threatened with a 4(d) rule under the Endangered Species Act. Learn about the status of monarchs, factors that have contributed to the decline, details about the USFWS proposal, and ways to support monarch conservation.

February 2: Gardening to Support Insects: Native Plants Matter, But Don't Rip Out Your Peonies

Presenter: Sharon Ashworth, Ph.D., serves as the Horticulture and Natural Resources Agent for Douglas County. Her work with Extension began as a volunteer with the Extension Master Gardeners after transitioning from academia to a book, "Wading Right In - Discovering the Nature of Wetlands" (2019)

Description: Whether it's diagnosing plant problems, recommending suitable plants for landscapes, or advising on rural acreage care—from ponds to prairies— Sharon applies scientific knowledge to help people create sustainable and beautiful landscapes.

Since 2015, the EcoTeam of First Presbyterian Church has coordinated presentations by well-informed individuals addressing earth care concerns which are open to church members and the general public. The church is recognized by the Presbyterian denomination as an Earth Care Congregation and is also a member of Lawrence Ecology Teams United in Sustainability (An interfaith network of green teams related to the following faith traditions: Muslim, Jewish, Catholic, Protestant, Unitarian Universalist, Zen Buddhist).



Collecting for our Souper Bowl of Caring – Tackle Hunger begins today. The field is in the Narthex waiting for your cans of soup to fill it up! The Youth are sponsoring this Mission project and will tally the “score” on February 9th. All donations will be given to Just Food. Thank you for your support!



Save the Date for an All Church Bowling Night! March 23 at 3:00 pm at Royal Crest Lanes. Plan to join the youth and show them your skills! Challenges given and accepted!



Nourish Our Future A Campaign to End Child Hunger

**Tuesday, February 4, 2025
7:00 p.m. EST | online and in-person**

Join Bread for the World as we launch a new advocacy campaign to make a historic impact against child hunger and malnutrition! Learn about the legislative priorities we will pursue, why they matter for children, and what you can do to make a difference.

Register today, and spread the word!

Scan the QR code, or go to arco.de/nourishourfuture



Mission/Matthew 25

Because the world is filled with fear, we go with courage

Legislative Priorities for the 2025 Kansas Legislature

The legislature was gavelled back into session on Monday. It promises to be a very active session. Kansas Interfaith Action (KIFA) represents the views of persons of faith across Kansas on how to best care for our neighbors. As many members of our congregation actively devote time and resources to support KIFA's efforts, we thought the congregation would be interested in their legislative priorities for the 2025 session as stated on their website. The list also provides a snapshot of some of the legislation that may be introduced during the session. For an in-depth description go to: <https://kansasinterfaithaction.org/>

- Full funding of public education
- Opposition to book bans and limitations on the teaching of history or literature
- Support for affordable housing to reduce homelessness
- Medicaid expansion to protect rural hospitals
- Expand access to school meals - the only predictable daily meal for many children
- Protect the graduated income tax and target property tax relief to working and middle-income families
- Roll back the most punishing aspects of the "HOPE" act that limits SNAP (food assistance) to some Kansans fighting drug addiction
- Reject any further discriminatory legislation targeting our LGBTQ+ citizens
- Support development of a comprehensive state energy plan and a fully staffed state energy office
- Oppose attempts to preempt local authorities' efforts to address pollution from single-use plastics
- Oppose restriction of voting rights by limiting access and imposing time restrictions
- Oppose dehumanizing rhetoric, mass deportations, militarization of our borders, and asylum restrictions
- Oppose efforts to expand religious or philosophical objections to childhood immunizations

In the news this week! – Earth Care Forum in the Lawrence Times!

